

The Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A sensing method comprising the steps of:
 - providing a Fabry-Perot cavity, including pair of partially transmissive, partially reflective, surfaces wherein a first of said surfaces is flexibly suspended adjacent and parallel to a second of said surfaces so that a gap exists therebetween;
 - providing a source of variable electrostatic potential for providing a selected electrostatic potential between said first and second surfaces so that said gap is adjustable;
 - providing a translucent chemical layer on said flexibly suspended first surface;
 - providing a photosensor attached to said second surface outside of said gap; and
 - providing a source of light, said light for irradiating said photosensor through said porphyrin layer and said first and second surfaces wherein said light is also partially reflected between said surfaces;
 - providing a sensing environment wherein an agent undergoes a reaction with said chemical layer and a sensing environment wherein said reaction does not occur;
 - measuring a change in spectrum of an output of said photosensor between said sensing condition wherein said agent undergoes said reaction with said chemical layer and said sensing condition wherein said reaction does not occur; and
 - measuring a change in spectral intensity of said output of said photosensor between said sensing condition wherein said agent undergoes said reaction with said chemical layer and said sensing condition wherein said reaction does not occur;

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20 wherein said gap and said light are selected to provide a desired output of said
21 photosensor.

1 2. A sensing method according to claim 1 wherein said steps of
2 providing a Fabry-Perot cavity;
3 providing a source of variable electrostatic potential;
4 providing a translucent porphyrin layer;
5 providing a photosensor;
6 providing a source of light;
7 measuring a change in spectrum; and
8 measuring a change in spectral intensity
9 are provided on an integrated circuit.

1 3. A sensing method comprising the steps of:
2 providing a Fabry-Perot cavity, including pair of partially transmissive, partially
3 reflective, surfaces wherein a first of said surfaces is flexibly suspended adjacent and parallel to a
4 second of said surfaces so that a gap exists therebetween;
5 providing a source of variable electrostatic potential for providing a selected electrostatic
6 potential between said first and second surfaces so that said gap is adjustable;
7 providing a translucent porphyrin layer on said flexibly suspended first surface;
8 providing a photosensor attached to said second surface outside of said gap; and

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9 providing a source of light, said light for irradiating said photosensor through said
10 porphyrin layer and said first and second surfaces wherein said light is also partially reflected
11 between said surfaces;

12 providing a sensing environment wherein an agent undergoes a reaction with said
13 porphyrin and a sensing environment wherein said reaction does not occur;

14 measuring a change in spectrum of an output of said photosensor between said sensing
15 condition wherein said agent undergoes said reaction with said porphyrin and said sensing
16 condition wherein said reaction does not occur; and

17 measuring a change in spectral intensity of said output of said photosensor between said
18 sensing condition wherein said agent undergoes said reaction with said porphyrin and said
19 sensing condition wherein said reaction does not occur;

20 wherein said gap and said light are selected to provide a desired output of said
21 photosensor.

1 4. A sensing method according to claim 3 wherein said steps of
2 providing a Fabry-Perot cavity;
3 providing a source of variable electrostatic potential;
4 providing a translucent porphyrin layer;
5 providing a photosensor;
6 providing a source of light;
7 measuring a change in spectrum; and

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8 measuring a change in spectral intensity
9 are provided on an integrated circuit.

1 5. The method of claim 3 wherein said first partially transmissive, partially reflective,
2 surface is a gold surface.

1 6. The method of claim 3 wherein said photosensor is a photodiode.

1 7. The method of claim 3 wherein said source of light is a laser.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein said laser is band limited laser.

1 9. The method of claim 7 wherein said laser is of a variable wavelength.

1 10. A sensing method comprising the steps of:
2 providing a Fabry-Perot cavity, including pair of partially transmissive, partially
3 reflective, surfaces wherein a first of said surfaces is flexibly suspended adjacent and parallel to a
4 second of said surfaces so that a gap exists therebetween;
5 providing a source of variable electrostatic potential for providing a selected electrostatic
6 potential between said first and second surfaces so that said gap is adjustable;
7 providing a translucent mettaloporphyrin layer on said flexibly suspended first surface;

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8 providing a photosensor attached to said second surface outside of said gap; and
9 providing a source of light, said light for irradiating said photosensor through said
10 mettalo porphyrin layer and said first and second surfaces wherein said light is also partially
11 reflected between said surfaces;
12 providing a sensing environment wherein an agent undergoes a reaction with said
13 mettalo porphyrin and a sensing environment wherein said reaction does not occur;
14 measuring a change in spectrum of an output of said photosensor between said sensing
15 condition wherein said agent undergoes said reaction with said mettalo porphyrin and said sensing
16 condition wherein said reaction does not occur; and
17 measuring a change in spectral intensity of said output of said photosensor between said
18 sensing condition wherein said agent undergoes said reaction with said mettalo porphyrin and said
19 sensing condition wherein said reaction does not occur;
20 wherein said gap and said light are selected to provide a desired output of said
21 photosensor.

1 11. A sensing method according to claim 10 wherein said steps of
2 providing a Fabry-Perot cavity;
3 providing a source of variable electrostatic potential;
4 providing a translucent porphyrin layer;
5 providing a photosensor;
6 providing a source of light;

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7 measuring a change in spectrum; and
8 measuring a change in spectral intensity
9 are provided on an integrated circuit.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein said first partially transmissive, partially reflective,
2 surface is a gold surface.

1 13. The method of claim 10 wherein said photosensor is a photodiode.

1 14. The method of claim 10 wherein said source of light is a laser.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein said laser is band limited laser.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said laser is of a variable wavelength.